

South Dakota MILK PRODUCTION

News Release

April 15, 2005

JANUARY - MARCH 2005 MILK PRODUCTION UP

SIOUX FALLS, April 15, 2005 – The January - March 2005 quarterly milk production for South Dakota totaled 344 million pounds, 3 percent above last year, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Office. This is also above the fourth quarter 2004 production total of 338 million pounds.

During the first quarter of 2005, the average number of milk cows, at 80,000, is unchanged from last year. This is also unchanged from last quarter.

During 2004, the number of milk cows averaged 80,000, down 2,000 head from the previous year. Milk produced per cow averaged 16,838 pounds, up from 16,220 pounds in 2003. Total milk produced in 2004, at 1,347 million pounds, was up 1 percent from 2003.

The complete report can be accessed at www.usda.gov/nass/

or call Carter Anderson or Steve Noyes at

605-323-6500